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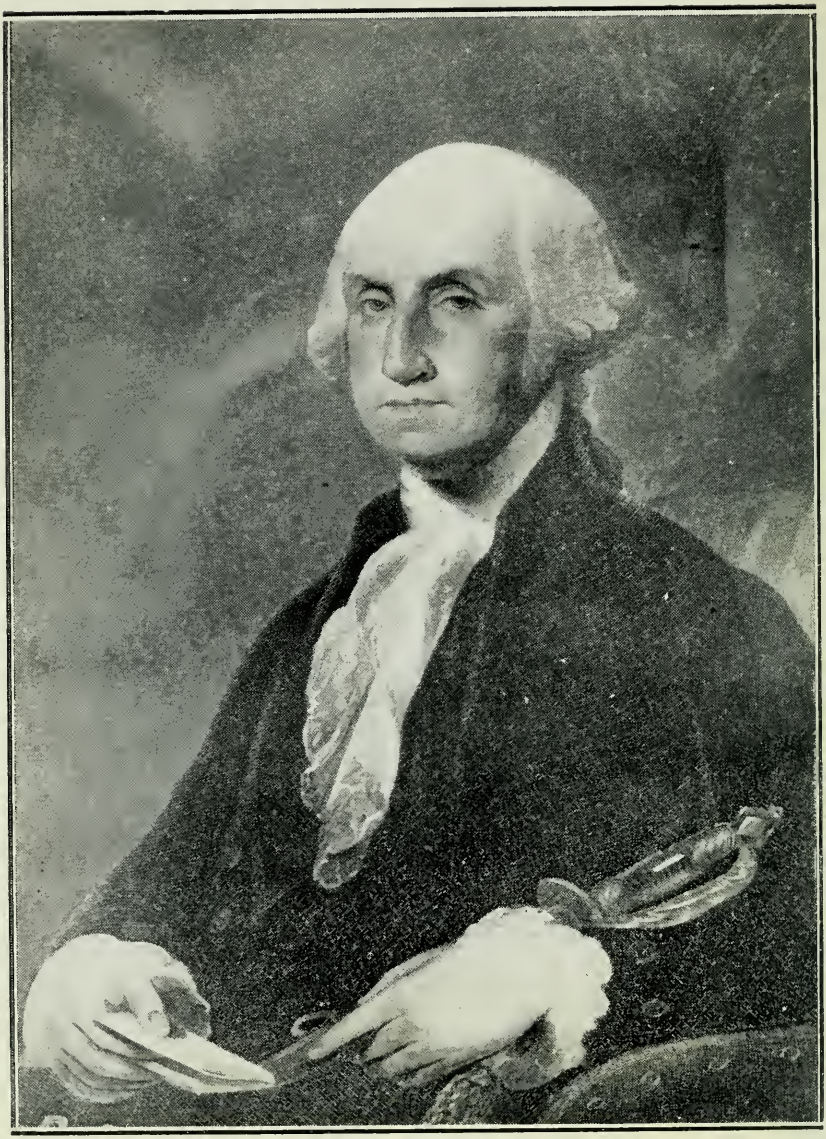

GEORGE WASHINGTON
First President of the United States. Direct descendant of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave Manor.

THE WASHINGTON

AND

FRANKLIN COUNTRY

Northamptonshire, England.

By REGINALD W. BROWN, F.L.A.

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The Washington and Franklin Country.

IN introducing the American visitor to the Washington and Franklin country, it is felt that no apology is needed, because the number of visitors from over the water to the homes of these two famous Americans increases year by year. It is, however, thought desirable to present in a brief manner the main points of interest to those who are desirous of visiting the chief places connected with Washington and Franklin.

Northamptonshire is a delightful county, well wooded, full of historic associations, and proudly claims to have been the birthplace of the ancestors of two world-famous Americans, George Washington, the first President of the United States, and Benjamin Franklin, a statesman and leader of thought of almost equal fame.

Northamptonshire has been called " the County of Spires and Squires " and the Nene valley churches are certainly a heritage of which the inhabitants may be justifiably proud. The leafy hedgerows possess a very real charm of their own and the rolling country dotted here and there with noble spires appeals to all who love a beautiful English landscape.

The Ancestral Home of the Washingtons.

HE ancestral home of the Washingtons is at Sulgrave, a village in the heart of rural Northamptonshire. Its straggling old-world main street with thatched cottages, makes a charming picture, and the visitor instinctively feels remote from civilisation. The village is seventeen miles from Northampton.

Sulgrave Church has little of historic interest but contains the Washington pew. The Church is in the perpendicular style and stands at the top of the hill. Three of the brasses from the Washington tomb were lost but have recently been restored to their former position. The original owner of the Manor House (Lawrence Washington) rests beneath a slab of Hornton stone bearing the following inscription :

" Here lyeth buried ye bodies of Laurence Washington, Gent.; and Amee his wyf, by whom he had issue, four sons and seven daughters. Oct., 14th, 1564."

In the same vault is buried Robert Washington, the son and heir.

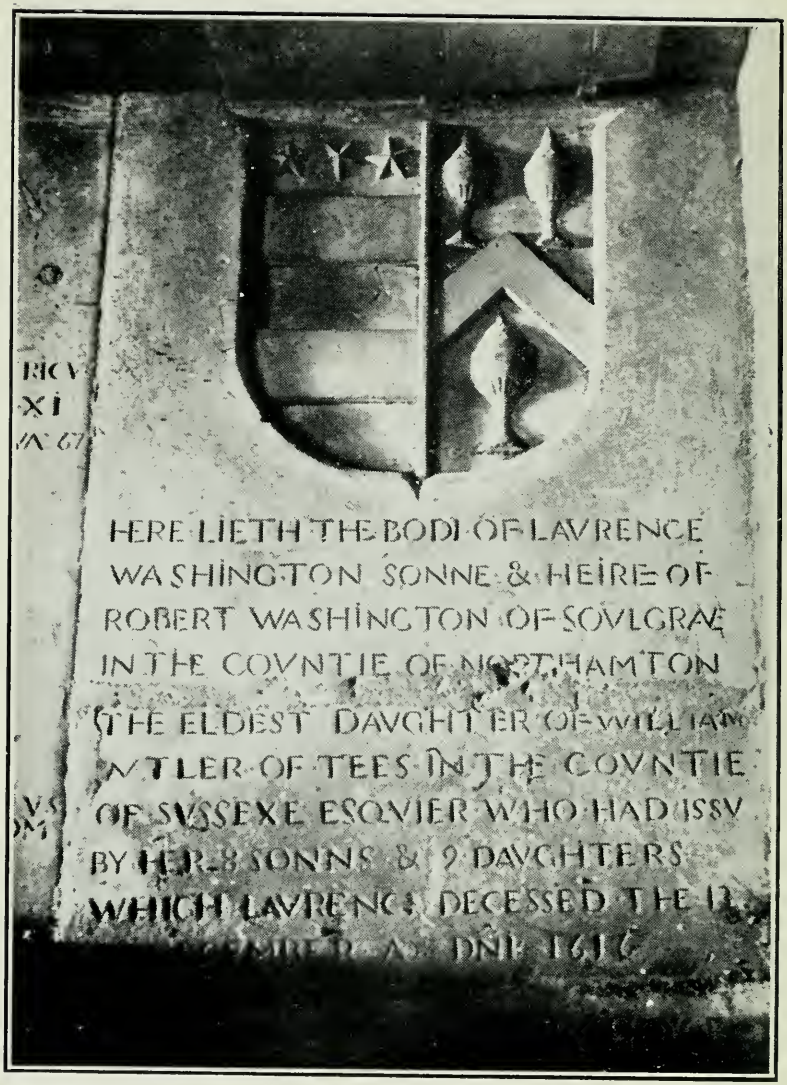
Recently a screen, the gift of American women, was unveiled in Sulgrave Church.

Not many years ago the Manor House looked like a farmhouse, but since its purchase by the British Peace Centenary Committee, in 1914, it has been lovingly restored and suitably furnished with objects relating to the Washingtons. It was handed over to the Sulgrave Institution who are responsible for making it into the beautiful place it is to-day. The formal dedication and

WASHINGTON HOUSE, LITTLE BRINGTON.
A tablet above the doorway bears the inscription : " The Lord geveth, the Lord taketh away."

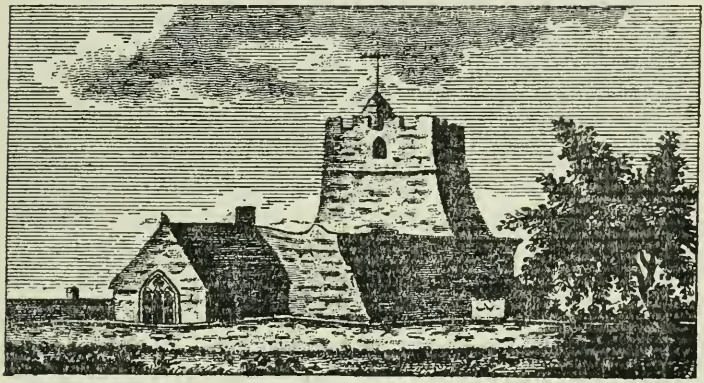
SULGRAVE MANOR, THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE WASHINGTONS.

SULGRAVE MANOR HOUSE. (BEFORE RESTORATION).



SLAB IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, BEARING THE FAMILY COAT OF ARMS (STARS AND BARS). BRINGTON CHURCH.

presentation of Sulgrave Manor " As a rallying centre for all who wish to promote friendship and understanding between the British and American people," took place on June 21st, 1921.



SULGRAVE CHURCH.
(from an old print).

The Articles of Agreement of the Sulgrave Institution include the following :

" For fostering friendship and preventing misunderstanding between the American and British peoples, and for the production of peaceful intercourse amongst the nations.

" To elucidate, explain and interpret questions of common interest, in public address and in printed publication :

" To bring together in a closer community of interest those societies, associations and individuals that are engaged in any work which tends towards an understanding of Anglo-Saxon-Celtic culture, laws and related institutions :

" To aid in upholding and maintaining the fundamental institutions of the English-speaking world, and in fostering the ideals which inspired their creation."

The Manor stands well away from the road and is pleasantly situated. Entrance is obtained through a court yard, and passing into the Dining Room on the right the visitor is immediately struck by the general arrangement, with its great open fire-place and its mullioned windows containing coats of arms. This room, divided into two until recently, had its partition removed with great effect. It is now suitably furnished and contains a collection of relics mostly presented by admirers of Washington. The staircase, with spiral oak balusters, is worthy of notice. The bedroom has been restored and contains a handsome four post Jacobean bedstead, presented by the Stars and Stripes Club of Manchester, with a charming contemporary needle-work quilt given by Mrs. Leggatt, the mother of the Countess of Sandwich. Inside the porch leading from the Dining Room to the garden are the Royal Tudor arms, represented by the Lion and the Dragon. Over the doorway is an almost obliterated shield in plaster with the family arms. On the gable end above are the Tudor Royal Arms, with the lilies of France and the lions of England, quartered within a garter, and supported by the lion and the winged-griffin or dragon. Over the arms are embossed the Tudor rose and French lily and the letters E.R. (the Royal monogram of Elizabeth).

In the right spandrill of the arch of the main doorway, are the Washington arms—two bars in the lower part and above them three mullets or stars. From these famous shields is supposed to have originated the inspiration of the stars and stripes. It must be of absorbing interest to Americans visiting the Washington country to find the arms which were taken as the ensign for the New Republic, carved over the entrance of the Sulgrave Manor House.

The gardens have been planned in old-world style which provides a charming setting for this delightful Tudor house. They were laid out under the supervision of the Countess of Sandwich, and have greatly improved the appearance of the Manor, which no longer looks like a farm house. The space occupied by the gardens was previously two fields which were included in the purchase. Sir

Reginald Blomfield was the architect responsible for the restoration of the house. An additional wing has been built to the west of the south entrance.

A new room, formerly the Breakfast Room, which is oak panelled, was opened recently and forms a most interesting addition to the house.

The armorial glass in the windows in the Dining Room is original, being six out of eight which were removed when part of the house was demolished. Two of the originals went to Weston Manor House near by.

THE THATCHED ANTIQUE SHOP
SULGRAVE, NORTHANTS

Most of the furniture, which is of the period, was purchased under the direction of Lady Lee of Fareham. Other interesting pieces are gifts from friends, including Mr. Pierpont Morgan, the Lady Bridges, Lady Sackville, etc.

Hanging over the fire-place in the Dining Room is a valuable contemporary portrait of George Washington by

Gilbert Moore, which was presented by Miss Faith Moore, sister to Lady Lee of Fareham.

In a corridor adjoining the Dining Room is a remarkably fine bust of George Washington in a tasteful setting, the gift of the American people. This study in bronze is a particularly beautiful piece of work by Frank Ordway Partridge, the well-known sculptor, and is after the Houdon life mask. It was unveiled by Mr. John A. Stewart, on June 21st, 1921.

Lawrence Washington rented the messuage at Sulgrave of the priory of St. Andrew's, Northampton—previous to the dissolution in 1539. At the dissolution he bought the property of the dissolved priory together with other lands in Sulgrave and the district, and under Letters Patent, dated March 10th, 1539, became a landed proprietor.

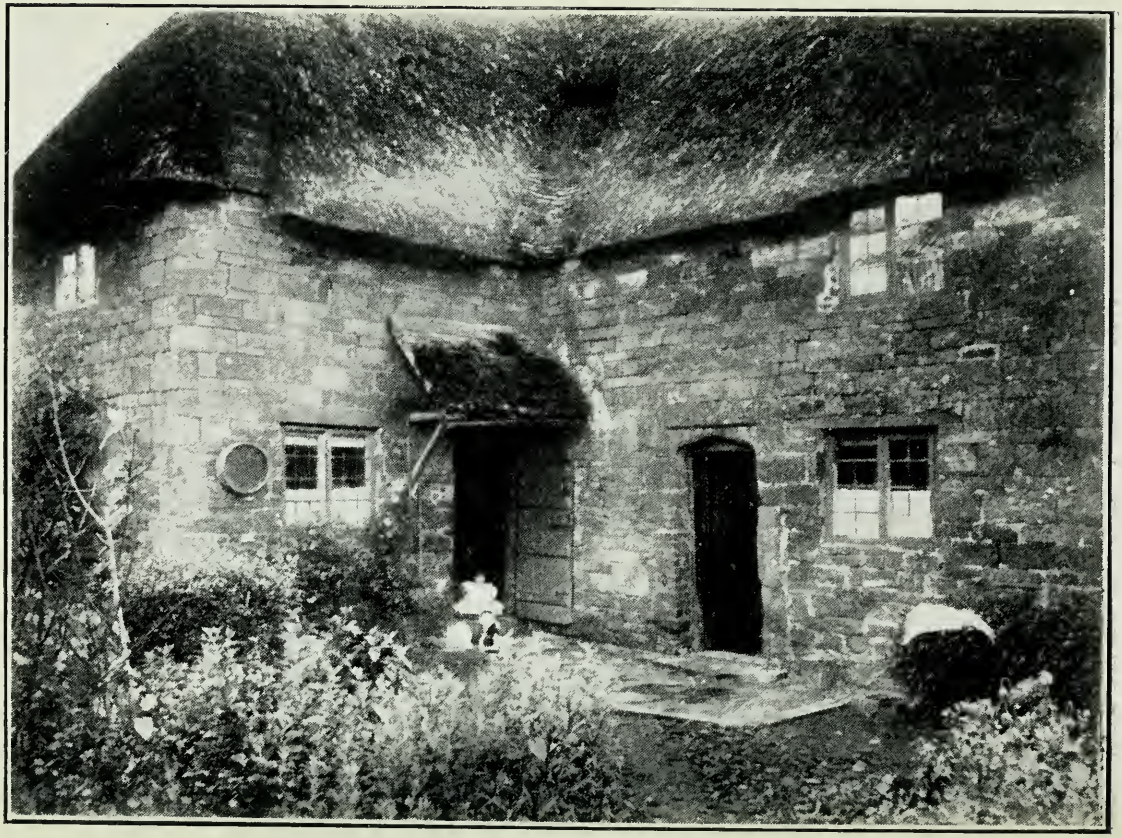
The Manor House as it stands to-day is the relic of the house that Lawrence Washington acquired soon after 1539. Part of the building was taken down about 1789.

The occupation of the house by the direct ancestors of George Washington came to an end with the death of Robert in 1619.

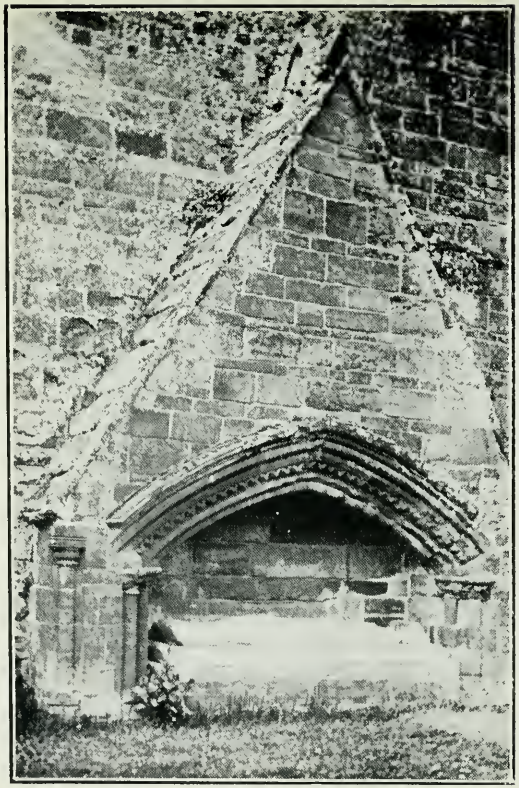
Tradition has it that Queen Elizabeth hid in the closet at the top of the staircase while engaged in a game of hide-and-seek during a visit to the Manor House, when Robert Washington was living there. It is supposed that she stayed there during one of her royal progresses. The royal coat-of-arms was only granted as a favour to those residences which entertained royalty.

GREAT BRINGTON CHURCH.

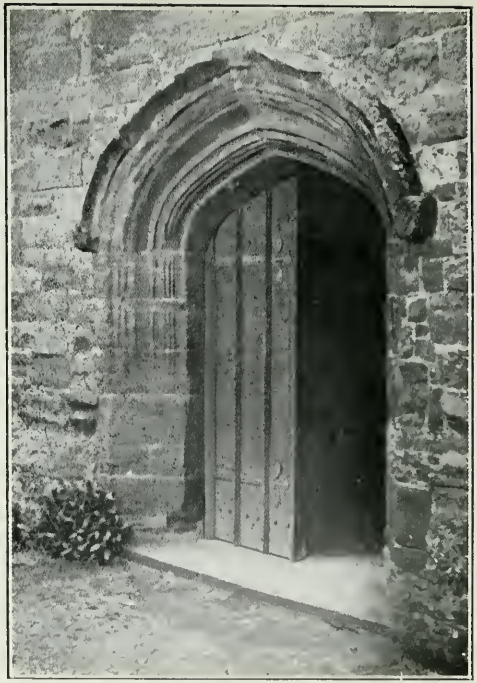
THE CROSS, BRINGTON.



WASHINGTON HOUSE, LITTLE BRINGTON (REAR VIEW).



OUTSIDE ARCH WITH RECUMBENT FIGURE, GREAT BRINGTON CHURCH.



DOORWAY, GREAT BRINGTON CHURCH.

ALTHORP HOUSE.
Mezzotint from "Cosmo's Travels," 1669.

Washington's Ancestry.

HERE is extensive literature upon the subject, but the most important publication about George Washington's English ancestors is the article by Henry F. Waters, printed in 1889, in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register entitled, " An Examination of the English Ancestors of George Washington, setting forth the evidence to connect him with the Washingtons of Sulgrave and Brington."† Until that was printed it was not definitely known from which part of England the emigrant ancestor of George Washington had sprung. It was known that John and Lawrence Washington had emigrated from England to Virginia, but their home in England and their parents were not known. It was also known that John Washington was the great-grandfather of the first President of the United States of America. When George Washington was asked about his ancestry he remarked " It is a subject to which I confess I have paid little attention." This attitude was directly opposite to that adopted by Franklin, who took minute pains to obtain all the information he could relating to his family.

Lawrence Washington, who settled in Northampton in the early part of the sixteenth century, was the son of John Washington of Warton in Lancashire, his mother, Margaret, being a sister of Sir Thomas Kitson, Alderman of the City of London, and of Hengrave Hall, Suffolk. Lawrence, the eldest son of a family of five sons and one daughter, was entered, by the advice of his uncle, at Gray's Inn as a student of the law. The fact that his uncle had amassed great wealth as a wool stapler may have influenced Lawrence who decided to forsake studying the law and

†" The Washington Emigrants and their Parents," by T. Pape, B.A., " Tyler's Quarterly Historical," January, 1923.

started in the same line of business. Northampton was at that time an important centre of the Wool Industry, and the hides of sheep, or their clippings were sent close to the local Market Square—Woolmonger Street reminding us of the industry. One of the great wool-growers in the district was Sir John Spencer who at one time was reputed to have possessed no less than 20,000 sheep. Lawrence was a cousin of the Spencers, Sir John having married Sir Thomas Kitson's daughter Catharine. Lawrence married the widow of a William Goffe who had been one of the bailiffs of Northampton, in 1514. The Rev. H. Isham Longden, M.A., F.S.A., Rector of Nether Heyford—a descendant of a collateral of the Washington Family—recently made some interesting discoveries, which he has published in book form. He found that William Goffe was a man of some wealth, having properties not only in Northampton but in the town and neighbourhood of Higham Ferrers. This connection finds confirmation in the recent discovery at the Northampton Public Library of a seal-tab belonging to an old and nearly contemporary deed (1538). His will, dated 20th August, 1528, left his widow, Elizabeth Goffe, (his second wife), well off. Other documentary evidence indicates that between that date and March 24th, 1530-1, widow Goffe had become the first wife of Lawrence Washington. Her death without issue, must have occurred, Mr. Longden thinks, before 1543, as it was about this time that Lawrence married again. It will be, therefore, a short time after his first marriage that he was elevated to the Mayoralty of the Borough of Northampton (1532-3). In 1545-6 he was a second time elevated to the Mayoralty. In the upper corridor of the Northampton Town Hall is an almost complete series of badge-shaped tablets bearing the names of the Mayors from 1377, and American visitors are always interested to see the two Washington badges.

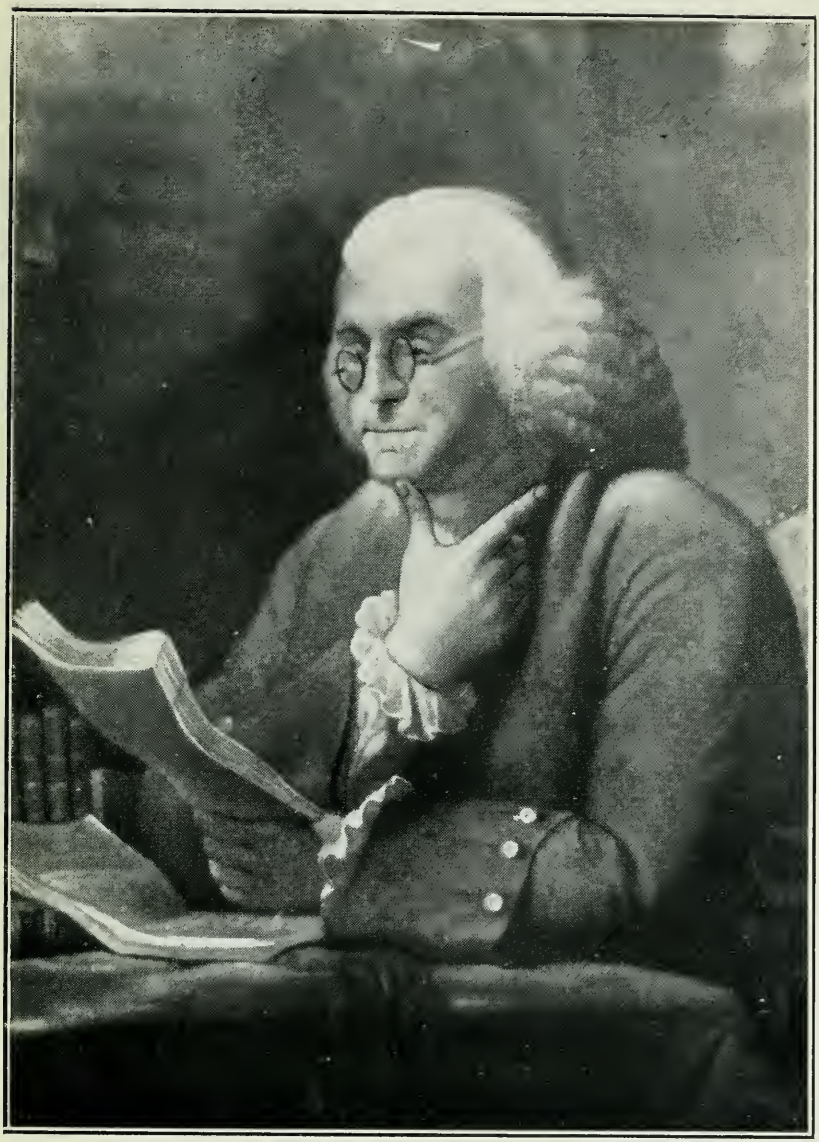
It was in 1539-40, during the life-time of his first wife, that Lawrence Washington, on the dissolution of the monasteries, received a grant from the Crown of the Manor of Sulgrave. The Manor belonged to the Priory of St. Andrew, Northampton, and Lawrence bought it for

£321 14s. 10d., after having rented it as a tenant for six years or more. His second wife was Amee Pargiter, the daughter of Robert Pargiter of the neighbouring parish of Greatworth. By her he had eleven children—four sons and seven daughters. She died in 1564, and he erected a monumental brass to her memory, in St. James' Parish Church, Sulgrave. Lawrence died in 1584 being succeeded by his son Robert, but by this time the family fortunes had become embarrassed and the estate was sold in 1610 to Laurence Makepeace, of the Inner Temple, London, and nephew of the latter.

Great Brington.

URING a visit to Sulgrave in 1619 Robert died, and was buried there. His son, Lawrence, and a younger brother, Robert, removed to Brington before their father's death, under the sheltering patronage of their powerful relations, the Spencers. Lawrence died in 1616, and Robert and his wife in 1622. Over the grave of each in St. Mary's Church, Brington, is a sepulchural slab, bearing the Washington arms. This Lawrence has 17 children—the fifth of whom was a son, another Lawrence, who became a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and subsequently Rector of Purleigh in Essex (1632-3). He was ejected therefrom in 1643, and died in January, 1652-3. Two of his sons, John and Lawrence, emigrated to Virginia in or about 1657. There are several reasons why the young Washingtons should seek their fortunes beyond the seas; loyalists and enthusiastic supporters of the Royal cause as the family had been, the intolerance of the Puritans afforded them no hopes of advancement in the old country, and they already had friends in Virginia. From John descended a son, Lawrence, and a grandson (Augustine) who married for his second wife, Mary Ball—a descendant of a former Vicar of All Saints', Northampton; and their eldest son was George Washington (born 11th February *(old style)* 1732 — died 14th December, 1799) — the Generalissimo of the American Revolution, " the Father of his country," and the first President of the U.S.A.

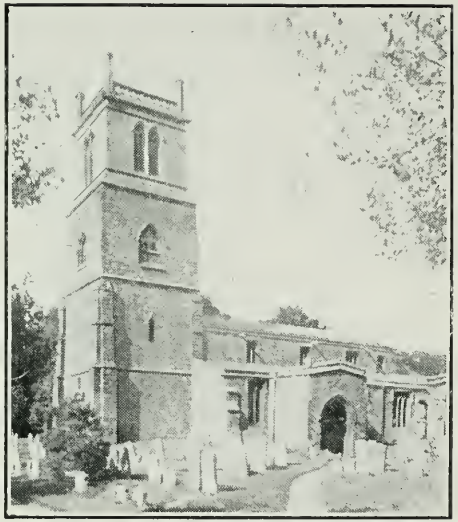
The church of Great Brington stands on high ground, from which on the east side can be seen vast stretches of undulating country, extending on one side towards Holdenby, once a royal residence of James I., in connection with which the episode of Cornet Joyce is well known. The episode is told at great length and with careful detail in



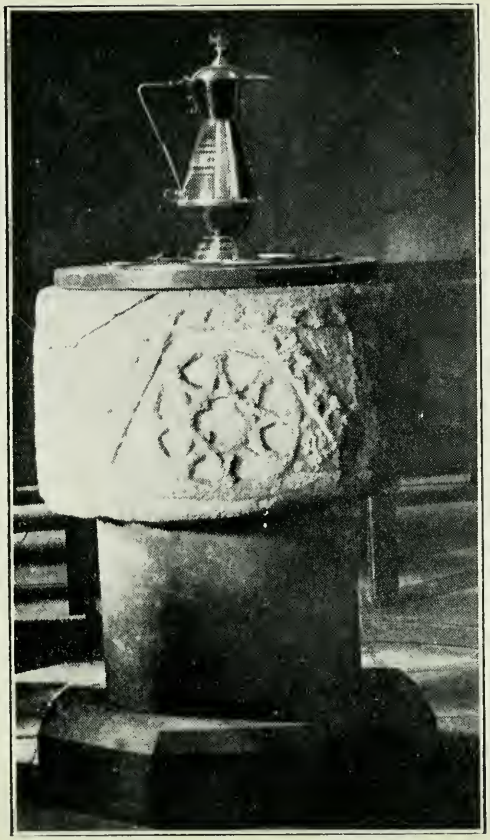
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.
From a rare mezzotint by Edward Savage after D. Martin.

A STREET IN ECTON VILLAGE. THE HOME OF THE FRANKLINS.

THE SPOT WHERE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S FATHER WAS BORN, ECTON.



ECTON CHURCH.



SAXON FONT, ECTON,
at which Benjamin Franklin's father
was christened.

EARLY ENGLISH FONT.
GREAT BRINGTON CHURCH.

Major Whyte-Melville's novel "Holmby House." On the south-east side can be seen the well-wooded park land of Althorp.

The preaching cross (1300) probably stands on the site of an older cross, erected in remembrance of the first preaching of the Christian faith. It is on a green mound under a large tree close to the church gates, and together with the church makes a delightful old-world picture.

Like Brixworth, this church was probably built by the Danes. The foundation stones, worn and reddened by fire, probably belonged to this early church. The tower dates from 1200, and the north aisle from 1226. The pew ends are worth special notice, those in the centre aisle being made in 1150.

The Spencer Chapel is full of beautiful memorials to a notable family. Sir Robert Spencer (died 1627) the friend and benefactor of the Washingtons, created first Baron Spencer of Wormleighton by James I. lies here.

The church contains the tomb of the first Sir John Spencer, who, by his marriage with Catharine, the daughter of Sir Thomas Kytson, allied himself with the Washingtons of Warton, Lancashire. There is also a tomb of Sir John Spencer, a grandson of the first Sir John, himself a life-long friend of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave.

In the Aisle at Great Brington Church, in the floor, is a brass to Robert and Elizabeth Washington, 1622, bearing the following inscription:

Here lies interred ye bodies of Elizab. Washington
Widdowe who changed this life for imortallitie
Ye 19th of March, 1622. As also ye body of Robert
Washington, gent., her late husband second
Sonne of Robert Washington of Solgrave, in ye
County of North, Esqr., who depted this life ye
10th of March, 1622, after they lived lovingly together
many yeares in this parish.

In the chancel between the north pews is the tomb of Lawrence Washington, the ancestor of George Washington.

His arms are impaled with those of his wife (Butler, three butler's covered cups). A replica of this tomb is in the Doric Hall at Washington, U.S.A.

Here lies the Body of Lawrence
Washington sone and heire of
Robert Washington of Soulgrave,
In the countie of Northampton
Esquier who married Margaret
The eldest daughter of William
Butler of Tees in the countie
Of Sussexe esquier who had issu
By her 8 sonns and 9 daughters
Which Lawrence deceased the 13
Of Dec. A.D. 1616
Thou that by chance or choyce
Of this hast sight
Know life to death resignes
As day to night;
But as the sunns retorne
Revives the day,
So Christ shall us
Though turned to dust and clay.

A modern pew, with the Washington arms, stands almost in the position of Robert Washington's old pew.

It was not until 1889 that George Washington's connection with the Washingtons of Brington and Sulgrave could be proved, Washington himself could only vaguely give the county of his forbears as Lancashire or some northern county, and the Lancashire Washingtons were traced to Warton in that county.

Mr. Henry Waters came over from America specially to collect what information he could gather, and he and Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., the well-known antiquary of

Canons Ashby, together with Mr. T. J. George, sometime Curator of the Northampton Museum, had the joy of unravelling, item by item, these tangled skeins of pedigree. They were able to prove definitely that the Sulgrave Washingtons were directly descended from the Lancashire family, and that the line went on unbroken to the Brington and American families.

The ancestors of Warren G. Harding, sometime President of the U.S.A., also lived at Sulgrave.

Little Brington.

HE house at Little Brington where Robert and Elizabeth Washington lived after having to leave Sulgrave Manor stands flush with the road. It has an inscription on a stone tablet over the main doorway. It runs:

The Lord geveth
The Lord taketh
away. Blessed be the
name of the Lord.
Constructa.
1606.

Robert Washington, a grandson of the first Lawrence, had the misfortune to lose his only child, hence the inscription. Some think it refers to the loss of their money. Robert's brother Lawrence then occupied the house, having 17 children.

A sundial bearing the Washington crest and the date 1617, together with the following letters $\frac{W.}{R.E.}$ was found in a garden at Little Brington in 1899. The letters stand for Washington, Robert and Elizabeth. The sundial is now at Althorp House.

The Washingtons made their home at Brington for some years after they left the Manor House, and also at Northampton.

Lawrence Washington and his elder brothers were regular guests at Althorp, Lord Spencer's beautiful home near Brington.

According to Lady Penelope Spencer's housekeeping-book for the period 1622-1627, three of the visitors at Althorp during the week ending 4th October, 1623, were Sir Richard Anderson, Sir John Washington and Lawrence

Washington. The Rev. Lawrence Washington is mentioned in the Steward's Household Book as having been a guest at Althorp 27th September, 1623.

Lawrence Washington, the Mayor of Northampton, was one of the original trustees of the Northampton Grammar School, and is named in the Deed of Foundation of 1541.

He appears to have interested himself in the affairs of the town of his adoption. During his second Mayoralty to meet the necessities of the times the Corporation in their "discrete discretion" to keep down the price of bread formulated certain enactments restricting the sale of that commodity.

The Descent of the Washington Family from the Kytsons of Warton.

Robert Kytson, of Warton, Lancs.

John Washington, of Warton, Lancs. = Margaret Kytson.

Laurence Washington, of Grays Inn, Mayor of Northampton 1532 and 1545. Grantee of Sulgrave,co. Northants. 30 Henry VIII., (1539); died 19 Feb. 26 Elizabeth (1583–4). Brass in Sulgrave Church. = Amee, or Amy, daughter of Robert Pargiter of Greatworth, co. Northants.died 6 Oct. 1564. 2ND wife.

Robert Washington, of Sulgrave, JOINTLY WITH his son Laurence, sold Sulgrave 8 James [1610]; died 1619–20. = Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Walter Light of Radway, co. Warw. 1ST wife.

Laurence Washington of Sulgrave and Brington, his son, Gregory, bapt. and bur. at Brington in 1606–7, another son, George, bapt. at Wormleighton 3 Aug. 1608. He died 13 Dec. and was buried at Brington 15 Dec. 1616. Monumental inscription on slab in floor of Chancel, Brington Church. = Margaret, eldest daughter of William Butler of Tighes, co. SUSSEX, mar. at Aston-le Walls, co. Northants. 3 Aug. 1588. Died 1650.

Robert Washington, of Brington, 2ND son, had seats allotted to him in Brington Church in 1606. Sundial discovered(1899) at Brington, bearing family arms and initials $\frac{W}{RE}$ and date 1617. Died and buried at Brington 11 March 1622. Married at Wormleighton, 19 Feb. 1595, Elizabeth, dau. of John Chishull, of More Hall, co. ESSEX; she was buried at Brington 20 March, 1622. Monumental brass in nave, Brington Church.

The Rev. Lawrence Washington, fifth son, entered Brasenose College, Oxford, 1619; B.A. 1623, Fellow of that College, c 1624; inducted to Rectory of Purleigh, co. ESSEX, 17 March 1623–4; ejected therefrom in 1643; buried at Purleigh, 21 Jan. 165⅔. = Amphilis, dau. of ... Roades. Buried at Tring 19 January, 1654–5.

John Washington, born in 1633 or 1634; emigrated to Virginia in 1657; Will dated 1675, proved 10 Jan. 1677. = Anne, daughter of Nathaniel Pope, a planter who had emigrated from England, and widow of ..... Broadhurst, 2ND wife.

Lawrence Washington, bap. at Tring, 23 June 1635; emigrated to Virginia 1666 or 1667.

Lawrence Washington, died 1697. = Mildred, dau. of Col. Augustine Warner.

Augustine Washington. = Mary Ball, 2ND wife.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,
born 11 Feb. *(old style)* 1732, died 14 Dec. 1799. First President of the United States of America.

These pedigrees by the late T. C. Pinny, Esq., are printed by kind permission of Lord Spencer, who reserves the copyright.

The Descent of the Spencer Family from the Kytsons of Warton.

Robert Kytson, of Warton, Lancs.

Sir Thomas Kytson, of Hengrave Hall, co. Suffolk, KNT, died 11 Sept. 1540. = Margaret, only child of John Donington, of Stoke Newington, co. Middlesex, died 1561, 2ND wife.

Katharine, 2ND daughter; marriage settlement dated 12 August, 37 Henry VIII. [1545] = Sir John Spencer, of Wormleighton, co. Warwick, and Althorp, co. Northants, KNT; died 9 Nov. 1586.

Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, KNT, died 9 Jan. 1599 By his will dated 6 Dec. 42 Elizabeth, bequeathed "Unto Elizabeth Washington the wife of Robert Washington of Great Brington in the Co. of Northampton "in regard of her pains about me in my sickness twenty pounds." = Mary, dau. and heir of Sir Robert Catelin, Lord Chief Justice of England; mar. 11 Sept. 1566.

Sir Robert Spencer, KNT, only son, created Baron Spencer of Wormleighton 21 July 1603. "Washington House," Little Brington, built 1606. Died 25 Oct. 1627. = Margaret, dau. and coh. of Sir Francis Willoughby, of Wollaton, co. Notts, KNT; married at Brington 15 Feb. 1587, died 13 Aug. 1597. Her sister, Abigail, wedded 26 April 1601, at Brington, William Pargiter of Greatworth, ESQ [d. 1661-2], a cousin of the Washingtons, she was buried at Wormleighton 12 Oct. 1654.

Sir William Spencer, K.B. 1616, and Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, died 19 Dec. 1636. = The Lady Penelope Wriothesley, eldest dau. of Henry Earl of Southampton [Shakespeare's patron]. Lady Spencer died in 1667.

Mary Spencer; eldest dau. mar. 1 Jan. 1605-6, at Brington, Richard Anderson, ESQ. [afterwards knighted] of Pendley, near Tring, co. Herts. Sir Richard Anderson by his will dated 5 Oct. 1630 bequeathed to his "cousin Larance Washington, of Brasenose, forty shillings."

Henry, 3RD Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, born 1620; created EARL OF SUNDERLAND 8 June 1643, a Royalist slain at the battle of Newbury, co. Berks, Sept. of the same year. His heart was buried in the family vault at Brington. = The Lady Dorothy Sidney, daughter of Robert Earl of Leicester [Waller's 'Sacharissa'] who was buried at Brington 25 Feb. 1683-4.

Robert, 2ND Earl of Sunderland, K.G., died 28 Sept. 1702. = The Lady Anne Digby, youngest daughter of George, Earl of Bristol, d. 1715.

Charles, 3RD Earl of Sunderland, K.G. died 1722. = The Lady Anne Churchill, 2ND dau. and coh. of John Duke of Marlborough, d. 1716; 2ND wife.

Robert, 4TH Earl of Sunderland, died unm 1729.

Charles, 5TH Earl of Sunderland, succeeded to the Dukedom of Marlborough 1737. From whom descended the Dukes of Marlborough.

The Honble. John Spencer, of Althorp, succeeded to the Sunderland Estates, born 1708, died 1746. = The Lady Georgiana - Caroline, 3RD dau. of John Earl Granville.

John Spencer, only son, created Viscount and Baron Spencer of Althorp. 1 Geo. III. [3 April 1761] and Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorp, 6 Geo. III. [1 Nov. 1765] died 1783. = Georgiana, eldest dau. of Stephen Poyntz, ESQ., of Midgham, co. Berks, died 1814.

The Earls Spencer of Althorp.

The Ancestral Home of the Franklins.

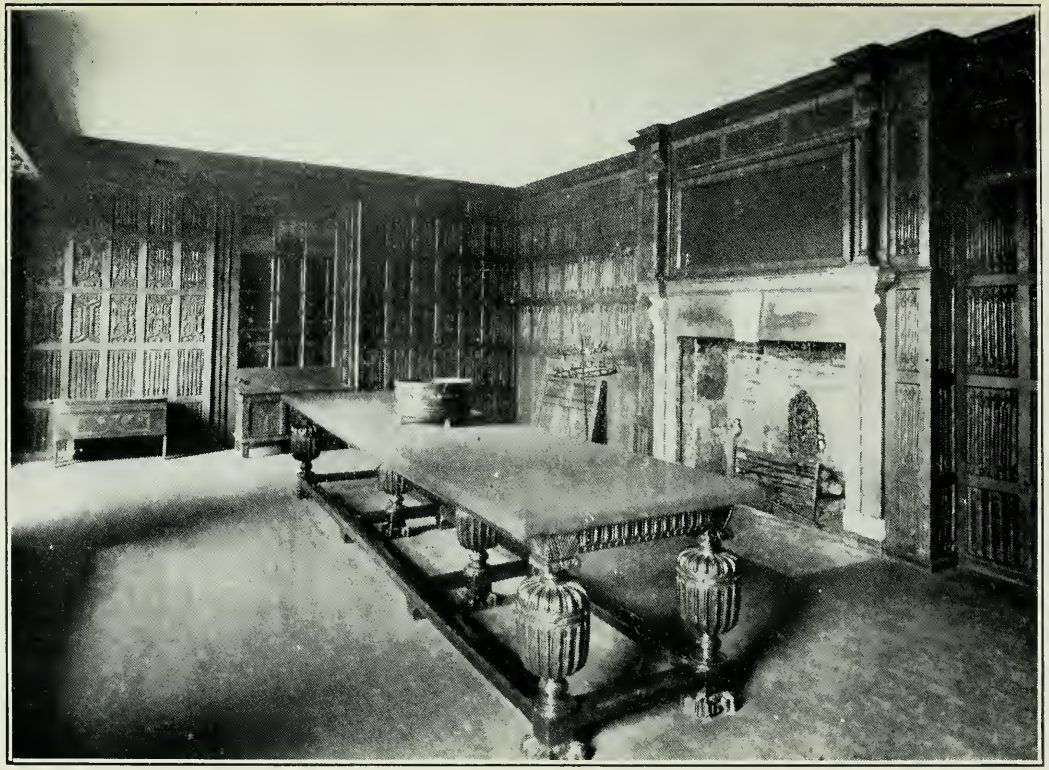
THERE is no record that George Washington ever visited this country or took any interest in searching out his pedigree, but we know that Franklin came to England and visited the places where his family had lived. His own diary and letters throw light upon the origin of his family in which he took a deep interest. The village of Ecton, about five miles from the town of Northampton, possesses a Manor-Farmhouse which is sometimes spoken of as the ancestral home of the Franklins, but tradition has it that the original house was burnt down, whilst some claim that The Three Horse Shoes Inn forms part of their old home. A well, in a garden near the Rectory, is still known as Franklin's well.

In the Churchyard are two tombs to Thomas Franklin (died 1702) and his wife Eleanor, and the inscriptions thereon are as follow :

Here Lyeth
the Body of
Thomas Franklin
who departed this
Life January the 6th
Anno Domini 1702
In the Sixty-Fifth
year of his age.

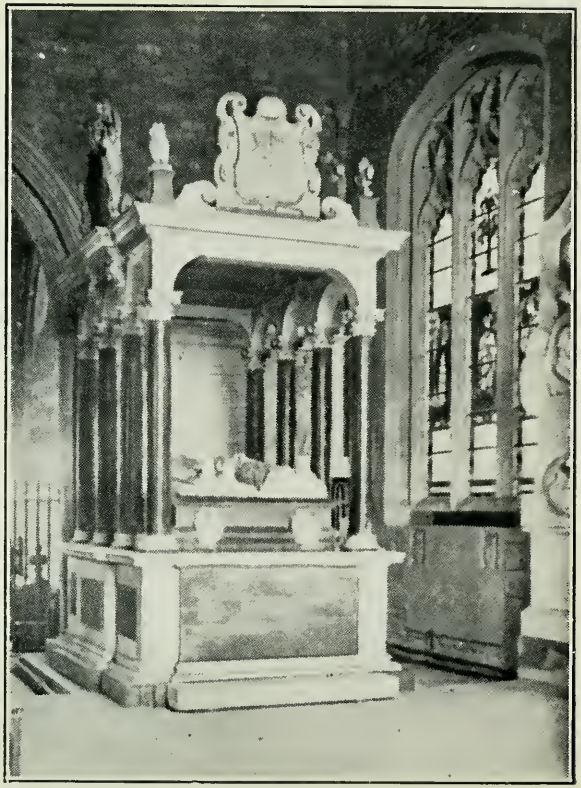
The two memorial stones are in close proximity and the one in memory to Eleanor runs :

Here
Lyeth the Body of
Eleanor Franklin
the wife of Thomas
Franklin who departed
this Life the 14th of
March 1711
in the 77th year
of her age.



THE OAK ROOM, ABINGTON MUSEUM, NORTHAMPTON.

PULPIT AND LECTERN, GREAT BRINGTON.



SPENCER MONUMENT, GREAT BRINGTON.

Thomas Franklin's younger brothers, Benjamin and Josiah emigrated to New England in 1685. From the family of Josiah sprang the celebrated Benjamin. Josiah twice married having seven children by his first wife and ten by his second. Benjamin was the tenth son of Josiah, and the eighth child and youngest son of ten children of the second marriage. In his early days he was apprenticed as a printer to his elder brother but the work was not congenial to him and for some years he did not settle down. He came back to England in 1758 and visited Wellingborough and Ecton. Another visit (1774) was for the purpose of seeking an honourable peace. In connection with his first visit the reader is referred to correspondence giving details of the Franklin pedigree in " English Ancestral Homes of Noted Americans " by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton.

In Philadelphia he printed and edited a newspaper of his own. He very soon became an important citizen and his valued work included the re-organization of the Postal Service besides the introduction of such improvements as paving and street lighting, and treating with the Indians. His devoted study of science enabled him to apply a wide knowledge to help mankind. He will be remembered for his endeavour to abolish slavery. He was a great thinker, writer, scientist and inventor, and it is no wonder that the world mourned its loss by his death in 1790. His autobiography is a standard work. The Franklins carried on the business of blacksmiths and bell founders at Ecton for more than three centuries.

In 1910 a bronze tablet was erected in Ecton Church by some Americans recording the connection with Benjamin Franklin.

On the main road stands the village inn, " The World's End." Hogarth painted a sign for it during one of his visits to Ecton. The original sign no longer adorns the building, although an engraving of it has been preserved.

Northampton.

ORTHAMPTON possesses two very interesting churches. The Church of St. Peter is one of singular beauty and interest. Its proximity to the L.M.S. Station, where once Northampton's Castle stood, seems to indicate that Castle and Church were erected about the same period, which, indeed, they were. No finer example of Norman architecture exists in the country. It dates from 1160 and Simon de St. Liz the third Norman Earl of Northampton was responsible for its erection. The chief feature is the beautifully carved capitals.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Sheep Street is one of the four Round Churches remaining in England and is generally supposed to have been begun very soon after 1100, and is assigned to Simon de St. Liz, the first Norman Earl of Northampton.

The Church of All Saints, in the centre of the town, though not possessing the architectural features of St. Sepulchre's and St. Peter's, has a rich and interesting history. The only portion, however, which survived the Great Fire of 1675 is the tower which has recently been refaced. The earlier building, with central tower, dated from the eleventh century.

The Hazelrigg Mansion, in Marefair, locally known as Cromwell House, is an Elizabethan structure.

The oldest building, excepting the churches, is the Hospital of St. John in Bridge Street and was founded in 1138.

Of the three remaining Eleanor Crosses, Northamptonshire possesses two, the Northampton Cross standing about a mile from the town, on the London road, and the other at Geddington.

The Town Hall of Lawrence Washington's day stood at the corner of Abington Street and Wood Hill. The oak wainscotting which surrounded the Council Chamber is now in the " Mayor's Room " at Abington Park Museum, and the magnificent Elizabethan banqueting table used for many years at the old Town Hall is in the " Oak " Room in the same building.

A room in the Abington Park Museum, known as the " Oak " Room, is well worth a visit, and contains some richly and beautifully carved panels of fine workmanship dating from about 1500. This manor house, now the Museum, was the home of Elizabeth Bernard, last of the direct descendants of Shakespeare, and in the church adjoining is a stone slab to her memory.

There is a picture of Lawrence Washington in the large hall at the Town Hall.

The Author wishes to thank Lord Spencer for the loan of the pedigrees and photographs of Sulgrave and Brington (from Mr. Pinny's collection) used in this book; Alderman S. S. Campion, J.P., for certain information relating to Washington's Ancestry, taken from his " Guide to the Northampton Town Hall "; Messrs. W. Mark & Co., and the Editor of " The Northampton County Magazine " for the loan of blocks (from photographs by Mr. C. F. Allen, Mr. D. Leigh, the late Mr. George Nichols, Mr. A. Nichols, Mr. H. J. Smith, and Mr. A. E. Tyrrell), and Messrs. H. Cooper & Son, The County Studio, Northampton, for permission to reproduce copyright photographs on pages 11, 12, 14 and 28.

How to Get to Sulgrave, Brington, and Ecton.

SULGRAVE.

Sulgrave is 16 miles from Northampton by road. It is best reached via Kislingbury, Bugbrooke, Litchborough, Maidford, Adstone, Canons Ashby, and Morton Pinkney.

By rail from Northampton Helmdon Station on the L.M.S. Railway is the nearest point.

BRINGTON.

Return on the same route as above as far as Maidford, and take the left turn through Farthingstone, Weedon Beck, and Flore. Take the second turn on the left to Little Brington (Washington House), and Great Brington is a mile distant. Althorp is passed on the return journey to Northampton.

By rail Brington is reached from Althorp Station on the L.M.S. Railway (6 miles). Buses to Rugby pass Althorp Station.

ECTON.

Ecton is 5 miles east from Northampton. There are frequent bus services on the Wellingborough Road.

Two miles further on is the famous Saxon Tower of Earls Barton Church.

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